

38.488333° 28.040278°

49 BC
616 AD

Sardis Synagogue

Rev 3:1

Josephus Ant. 14.235: decree of 49 BC
Josephus Ant. 14.259: decree of 48 BC
18 AD Earthquake: Strabo Geog. 12.8.18
Tacitus Annales 2.47

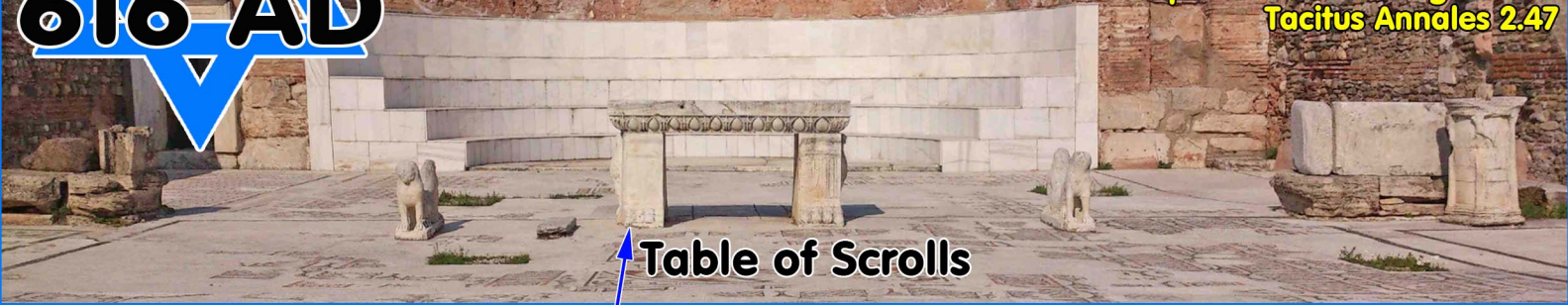
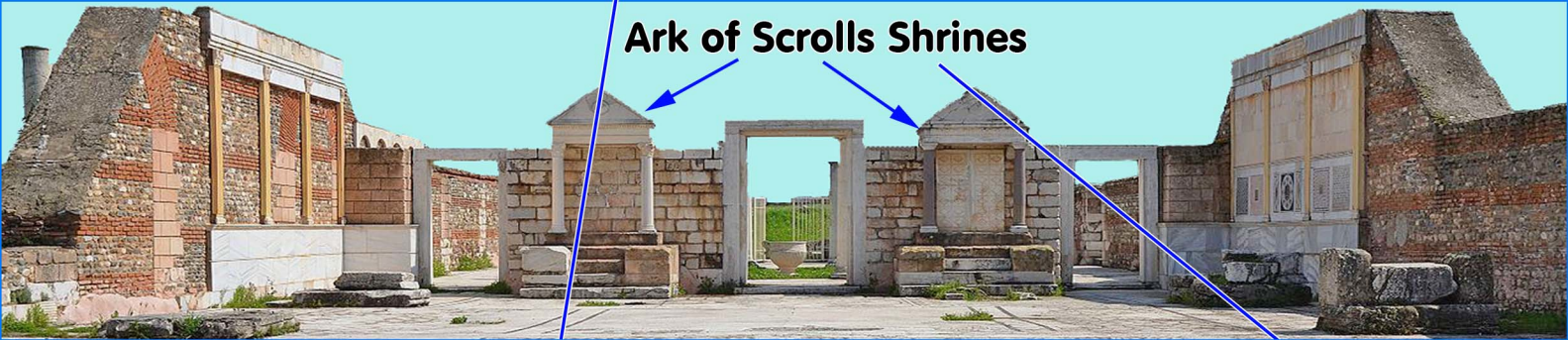
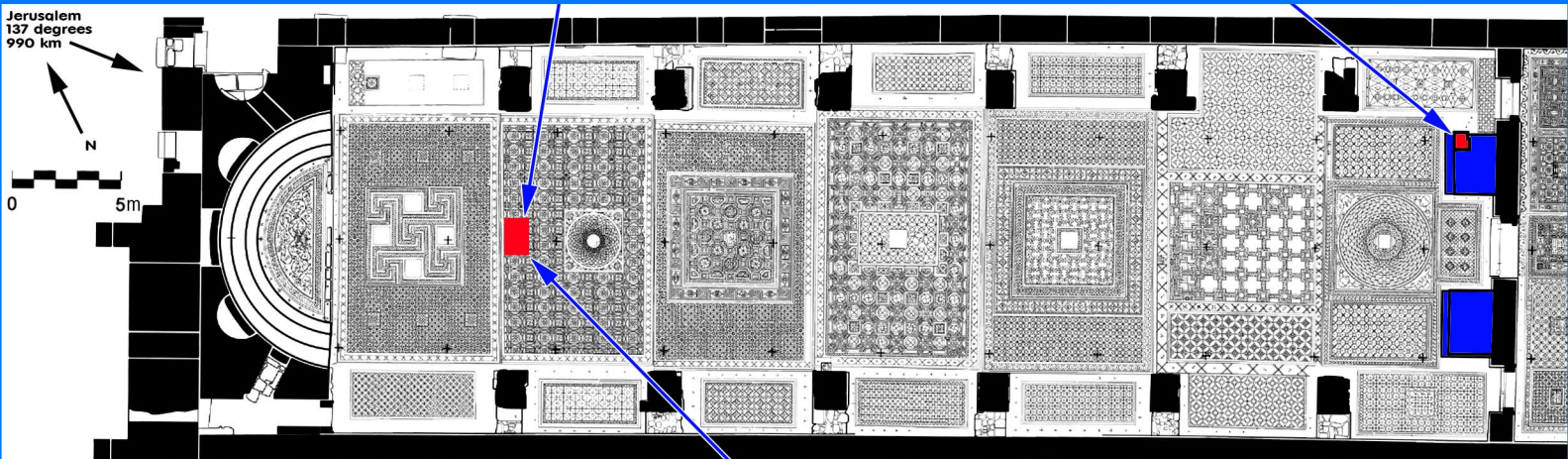


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The 666 year old Synagogue

Sardis was a commercial powerhouse and former capital of the Persian empire as far back as 536 BC. In 49 BC, Josephus Ant. 14.259 records imperial decrees protecting the already fully operational synagogue in Sardis from harassment of town officials, granting them right of peaceful assembly, right of ownership of property and allowing the import kosher foods into Sardis. In 98 AD a second decree in Ant. 14.235, gave the synagogue the legal status of a Jewish civil court like the church: 1 Cor 6:2. An earthquake destroyed the synagogue 18 AD and rebuilt in its current configuration. (Strabo Geog. 12.8.18; Tacitus An. 2.47) Its non-Jerusalem orientation proves it is a pre-70 AD synagogue. It was destroyed in 616 AD by the Sasanians and current structures reflect that final state after numerous renovations over 666 years.



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